

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Introduction:

Claims 1, 11, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 23, are amended, claim 10 is canceled, and new claims 24-29 are added herein. With entry of this amendment, claims 1-9 and 11-29 will be pending.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,219,703 (Nguyen et al.). The Nguyen et al. patent discloses a method and apparatus for constructing a device Management Information Base (MIB) in a Network Management Station (NMS). The device provides an agent, which includes a management structure MIB having data describing a device MIB structure supported by the device. The NMS includes an application which interprets data of the management structure MIB and constructs the device MIB. As shown in Fig. 1, the NMS includes device MIBs and a discovery application. The devices (or agents) each include a management structure MIB. The discovery application detects that a device is present on the network and accesses the management structure MIB to obtain data describing the device MIB structure. Fig. 2 illustrates contents of a management structure MIB, which includes a standard list of MIB objects 208. A process of the invention is shown in Fig. 5. The NMS retrieves a list of standard MIBs and objects supported by the device using a conventional SNMP GET-NEXT command over the standard MIB table (steps 508 and 512). The NMS accesses the management structure MIB using conventional SNMP communications through a conventional communications link. The NMS then constructs a MIB for managing the device and loads it into the memory of the NMS.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for configuring contents of a network management notification. The method generally includes sending a request for a management station to at least one agent for a list of notifications supported by the agent, receiving the list of notifications, determining objects defined in the notifications, sending a message to the agent specifying the objects to include in each notification, and receiving a notification containing the specified objects upon occurrence of an event. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the management station specifies the order of the objects to be included in notifications sent from the agent to the management station.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Nguyen et al., which does not disclose sending a message to an agent specifying objects to include in each notification and the order of the objects. Nguyen et al. are concerned with constructing an MIB in a management station so that the management station can use the MIB to manage a device. The management station uses information from a device MIB to construct its MIB. The management station does not specify to the agents which objects to include in each notification or the order of the objects, as required by claim 1. Applicants' invention is particularly advantageous in that the management station instructs an agent which objects to send for each notification and the order of the notifications so that notifications can be easily reconfigured by a management station, thus providing increased flexibility.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner refers to Col. 1, lines 37-40 of the Nguyen et al. patent. This section of the patent merely discusses how the management station obtains MIB information from a device using conventional SNMP methods for communicating between the management station and the device.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted as not anticipated by Nguyen et al. Claims 2-9, 11-13, and new claims 24-29, are submitted as patentable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 14 and 19 are directed to a computer program product and system, respectively, for configuring contents of a network management notification. Claims 14 and 19 have been amended to clarify that the management station specifies the objects and order of the objects for each of the notifications which are to be sent from the agent to the management station, and are submitted as patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 15-17, depending directly from claim 14, are submitted as patentable for the same reasons as claim 14.

Claim 18 is directed to a system comprising a processor that receives information specifying contents of notifications supported by an agent at a management station and sends instructions from the management station to the agent to modify the contents of the notification to a preferred configuration. Claim 18 has been amended to clarify that the preferred configuration specifies the objects to include in the notifications and the order of the objects, and is submitted as patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 20 is directed to a method for sending SNMP notifications from an agent to a management station and includes receiving a message from the management station specifying objects for notifications supported by the agent, modifying a list of objects for the notifications and including selected objects in a specified order, and sending a notification containing the specified objects in the specified order upon occurrence of an event. As discussed above, Nguyen et al. simply provide a method for sending MIB information from an agent to a management station and creating an MIB at the management station for managing the agent. Nguyen et al. do not disclose receiving a message from a management station which specifies objects to include in notifications it sends to the management station or modifying a list of objects for notifications to include, as set forth in claim 20.

Accordingly, claim 20 and claims 21-22, depending either directly or indirectly therefrom, are submitted as not anticipated by Nguyen et al.

Claim 23 is directed to a system for sending SNMP notifications from an agent to a management station and is submitted as patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 20.

III. Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 446-8695.

Respectfully submitted,



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